

sented itself, to confirm this most interesting record. He was able to do so almost immediately, for on October 31, the day after I left Coolawanyah, two Letter-winged Kites appeared at the homestead. One was collected and the wings and tail were forwarded to me and have been given to the Western Australian Museum. The wing measurement was 314 mm. and the tail, 161 mm. Mr. Parsons recorded the total length in the flesh as 14½ in., the wing span as 2 ft. 9 in., and the weight as 8½ oz. The iris was red-brown. Sex not recorded.

Remarkably enough, very soon afterwards a specimen was collected much nearer Perth. Mr. L. Glauert informed me that on December 14, 1951 the W.A. Museum received a male Letter-winged Kite from Mrs. H. L. Jarvie, of Miling (110 miles north-east of Perth), on whose property it had been shot.

Mr. I. C. Carnaby, of Wooroloo, has informed me of his observation of the Letter-winged Kite at Exmouth Gulf in 1943, but owing to the absence of other records in the State he was diffident about putting the record forward. He has prepared the following note:

"During a 10 months' residence at Learmonth, Exmouth Gulf three pairs of a hawk suspected of being *Elanus scriptus*, were noted. Whilst wind-hovering the letter-like markings on the under surface of the wings showed very clearly. One pair appeared to be nest building but the nest was abandoned early in August 1943. Later two nests were located further afield and birds were seen brooding. These nests were both on the ends of branches about 25 feet high, at right angles from the trunk, and overlooking dried water courses. They were too difficult for closer observation."

A previous published record by A. F. Crossman ("Birds Seen in and Around Broome, North-Western Australia." *The Emu*, vol. 10, 1910, p. 111), who baldly stated that the species was "not uncommon," has not been accepted in the absence of other evidence of occurrence. The record was also suspect as he made no mention of the presence of *Elanus notatus*.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

Bird Notes from Esperance.—These notes are based on observations made during November 1-6, 1950 and February 24-27, 1951 and are additional to those recorded by E. H. and L. E. Sedgwick (*W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 2, 1950, p. 111) during the summer of 1949-1950. My notes are not inclusive and several species covered in the previous article are not mentioned as no new information was obtained.

Brush Bronzewing (*Phaps elegans*).—Four pigeons were flushed in the Pink Lake area, where fresh water springs at its edge are a great attraction to the birds. Shooters visit the area at night and obtain many of them. This seems to be the common species in the district.

Hoary-headed Grebe (*Podiceps poliocephalus*).—On Webster Lake there were about 2-300 of these grebes.

Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*).—The large numbers reported by the previous observers did not come under notice, 30 individuals being seen one day and 50 on another.

Pacific Gull (*Gabianus pacificus*).—On the first visit 6 mature and 11 immature individuals were observed. On the second over 50 birds were present, no sectional counts being made. The increase is possibly due to breeding birds having moved in from the islands.

Banded Stilt (*Cladorhynchus leucoccephalus*).—On Webster Lake 2-300 birds were seen.

Avocet (*Recurvirostra novae-hollandiae*).—There were 80 birds in association with the Stilts.

Little Stint (*Erolia ruficollis*).—About 500 were seen on Webster Lake. Small parties of up to a dozen were noticed on the sea beaches.

Australian Bustard (*Eupodotis australis*).—One bird was flushed from the side of the road in the sand plain country some 15 miles from Esperance.

Mountain Duck (*Tadorna tadornoides*).—20 were seen on Webster Lake.

White-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*).—A flock of over 200 was seen in the sand plain country west of Esperance, on the second visit.

King Parrot (*Purpuriccephalus spurius*).—Two birds were seen.

Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*).—One bird was heard calling on the first visit.

Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*).—Seen and heard calling during the first visit.

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*).—A nest with 3 eggs was found in a limestone cliff during the first visit.

Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*).—One bird was seen some 15 miles north of Esperance.

Brown Song-Lark (*Cinclothrampus cruralis*).—One bird was seen calling in the aerodrome area.

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (*Gliciphila melanops*).—A pair were seen about one mile inland from the beach at the first visit. From their behaviour it would appear that they were nesting, as one bird was carrying food.

Yellow-throated Miner (*Myzantha flavigula*).—The absence of this bird from the Sedgwick's list comes as a surprise, as it proved to be one of the commonest honeyeaters on both visits. However, the period covered was one of exceptionally heavy rainfall and doubtless the flowering period was both long and fruitful. It indicates, however, that in the more arid areas fairly continuous observation over a period of years is necessary before valid conclusions on the presence or absence of a particular species may be made.

—V. N. SERVENTY, Subiaco.